

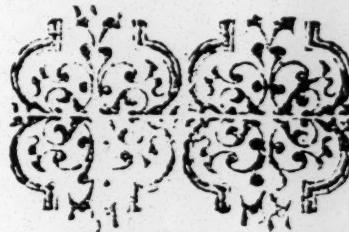
THE
PLEASANT HISTORIE
OF
Dorastus and Fawnia.

VVherein is discovered, that
although by the meanes of sinister
Fortune, *Truth* may be concealed; yet
by *Time*, in spight of *Fortune*, it
is manifestly revealed,

Pleasant for age to avoyd drowsie thoughts,
Profitable for Youth to avoyd other wanton
Pastimes: And bringing too both
a desired Content.

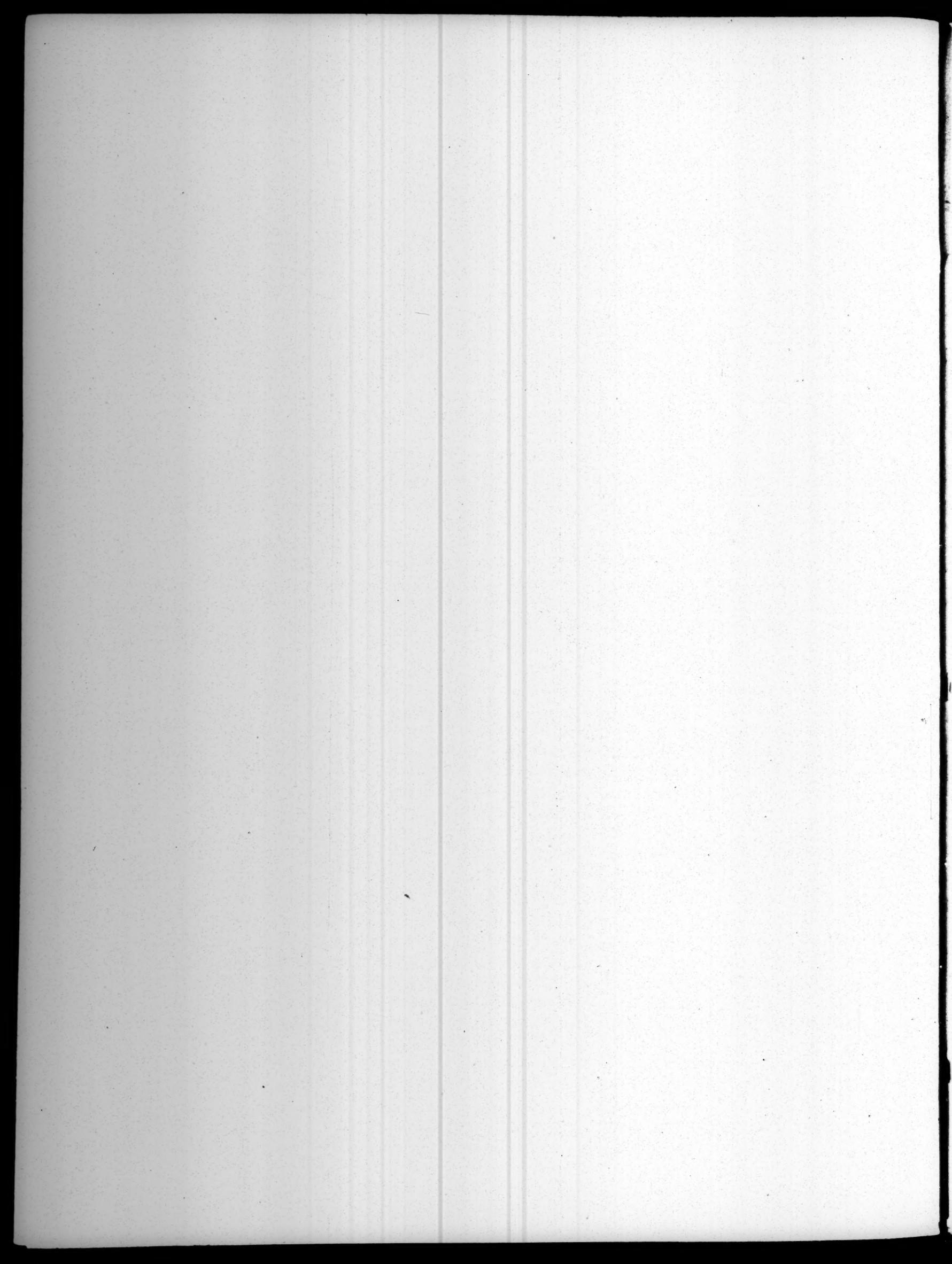
Temporis filia Veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE, Master of Arts in Cambridge.
Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.



L O N D O N,

¶ Printed by T. P. for Franel's Faulkner, and are to bee sold
... in Chear in Southwarke neare Sainte Mar.





THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.

Amongst all the passions wherewith humane minds are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despight, as that infectious soze of Jealousie: For all other grieves are eyther to be appeased with sensible perswasion, to be cured with wholesome counsell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out, Jealousie onely accepted, which is gauced with suspitious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that who so seeks by friendly counsell to raze out this bellish passion, it sozfb- with suspecteth that he giueþ this advice to couer his owne guiltiness. Yea, who so is pinched with this restlesse torment, doubteth all, disturbeth himselfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, & fired with suspition, having that wherein consisteth all his joy, to bee the breeder of his misery. Yea, it is such an heauy enemy to that heauy estate of matrimony, sowing betweene the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once razed out by spightfull distrust, there oft ensueth bloody revenge, as this ensuing Historie manifestly prooveth, wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by a causles jealousy) procured the death of his most louing and loyall wife, and his own endles sorrow and misery.

In the Countrey of Bohemia, there raigned a King called Pandosto, whose fortunate successe in Warres agaynst his Foes, and bountifull courtesie towarde his Friends in peace, made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandosto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth rap- all, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to judge, whether her beauty, fortune, or ber-

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sue, wan the greatest commendacions. These two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content, that their subiects greatly rejoyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not been married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happiness) sent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of Nature, as the perfection of the Child greatly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the joy of their Commons: in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward joyes by outward actions, made Bonfires and Triumphes throughout all the Kingdome, appointing Jests and Turneys, for the honour of their young Prince: whether resorted not onely his Nobles, but also diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to win fame and glory by their prowesse & valour, Pandosto whose minde was fraught with princely liberality, entertained the Kings, Princes, and Noble-men with such submisse courtesie, and magnificall bounty, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall Feast of all his Subjects, which continued by the space of Twenty dayes; all which time the Jests and Turneys were kept, to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemnne Triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leave of Pandosto and Bellaria, the yong Son (who was called Garinter) was nursed vp in the house, to the great joy and content of their Parents. Fortune envious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her inconstancy, turned her wheele and darkened their bright Sunne of prosperity, with the milky Clouds of mishap and misery. For so it happened; that Egittus King of Sicilia, who in his youth had beene brought vp with Pandosto, desirous to shew, that neither tract of time, or distance of place could diminish their former friendship, provided a Paue of Ships, and sailed into Bohemia, to visite his old friend and companion: who hearing of his arrivall, went himselfe in person and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great fraine of Lords and Ladies to meet Egittus, & espying him, alighted from his horse, embrased him very louingly, professing, that nothing in the world eould haue happened more acceptable to him then his coming, wishing his wife to welcomme his old friend and acquaintance:

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tance; who (to shew how she liked him whom her husband loued) entertained him with such familiar courtesie, as Egistus perce-
ued himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus sa-
luted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on Horse-
backe, and rode toward the City, devising and recounting, how
being children, they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes:
where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was received
with triumphs and swerves, in such sort, that hee maruelled how
on so small a warning they could make such preparation. Pas-
sing the Streets this with such rare sights, they rode on to the
Palace: where Pandosto entertained Egistus and his Sycilians
with such banqueting and sumptuous cheere, so royally, as they
had all cause to commend his Princeely liberality: yea, the very
basest Slave that was knowne to come from Sicilia, was vsed
with much courtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue, how
both he and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who
in her time was the Flowre of Courtesie) willing to shew how
unfaignedly she loued her husband, by her friends entertainment
vsed him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance bewraied
how her heart was affected toward him: often times comming
her selfe into his Bed-chamber, to see if nothing shold bee a-
nuisse to dislike him. This honest familiarity increased dayly
more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a
Princeely and bountifull mind, adorned with sundry & excellent
qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous & courteous dis-
position, there grew such a secret uniting of their affections,
that the one could not well be without the company of the other: in-
somuch that when Pandosto was busied with such urgent af-
fares, that he could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bel-
laria would walke with him into the Garden, & there they two in
private pleasant deuices, would passe away their time to both
their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a
certaine melancholy passion entring the mind of Pandosto, drove
him into sundry and doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to mind
the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comeliness and brauery of his
friend Egistus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, & ther-
fore to be staied with no Law, that it was hard to put fire & flax
together without burning, that their open pleasure might breed

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his secret displeasures. He considered with himselfe that Egistus was a man, and must needes loue : that his wife was a woman, and therefore subject to loue: and that where fancy forced, friend-ship was of no force. These and such lik doubtfull thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke , began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which, increased by suspition, grew at last to flaming jealousie, that so tormented him, as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too priuate familiarity , judging that it was not for honest affection, but for disordinate fancy : so as he began to watch them more narrowly , to see if hee could get any true or certaine proove to confirme his doubtfull suspition. While thus he noted her lookes and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings , they two silly Soules , who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent , frequented daily each other's company : which draue him into such a frantick passion , that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowring countenance to Bellaria : Who maruelling at such unaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the moone , and to enter into a Thousand sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband : but finding in her selfe a cleere conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as shee might finde opportunity to demaund the cause of his dumps. In the meane time Pandostos minde was so farre charged with Jealousie, that hee no longer doubted , but was assured (as hee thought) that his friend Egistus entred a wrong point in his fables, and so had plaied him false play. Whereupon desirous to revenge so great an injury, he thought best to dissimble the grudge with a faire and friendly countenance: and so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the tricke of a foe : deuising with himselfe a long time how he might best put away Egistus, without suspition of treacherous murther , concluded at last to popson him. Which opinion pleasing his humor , hee became resolute in his determination, & the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his Cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof , to give him a thousand Crownes of yearly revenue. His Cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience , or willing for fashionis sake to deny such a bloody requisit, began with great reasons to perswade Pandosto from

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from his determinate mischiefe: shewing him what an offence murther was to the Gods, how much vnnaturall actions did moze displease the heavens, then men: and that causles cruelty did selome or never escape without reuenge: he laid before his face that Egistus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his Kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had & did shew him a most friendly countenance: how Egistus was not onely honored of his own people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his courtesie: And that if he now shold, without any just or manifest cause, porson him, it would not onely be a great dishonor to his Ma-jesty, and a meanes to shew a perpetuall enmity between y Sy-cilians and the Bohemians, but also his owne subjects woudl re-pine at such trecherous cruelty. These and such like perswasions of Franio (for so was his cupbearer called) could no whit pre-uaile to dissuade him from his diuellish enteprise: but remai-ning resolute in his determination (his fury so fired with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason) he began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, and to lay before him two baits, pre-ferment and death: saying, that if he wold poyson Egistus, he wold aduance him to high dignities: if hee refused to doe it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould bee too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſeeing that to perſuade Pandosto any more, was but to ſtrive againſt the ſcreame, conſented as ſoone as opportunity wold give him leauē, to diſpatch Egistus: wher-with Pandosto remained ſomewhat ſatisfied, hoping now hee ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtrusted injuries, intending alſo as ſoone as Egistus was dead, to give his wife a ſop of the ſame ſauce, and ſo to be rid of thoſe which are y cauſe of his reſt-les ſorrow: while thus he liued in thiſ hope, Franion being ſecret in hiſ chamber, began to meditate with hiſelfe in thiſe fearmes.

AY Franion, treason is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all, vniuſt offences may for a time escape without dan-
ger, but never without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a king, and miſt obey at command yet, Franion, againſt law and conſcience it is not good to reſiſt a tyraſt with armes, nor to please an un-
juſt King with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Folly refuſed

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gold, and frenzy preferment; wisedome seeketh after dignitie, and counsell looketh for gaine: Egistus is a stranger to thee, and Pandosto thy Souveraigne: Thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this, Franion, that a pound of Gold is worth a Tunne of lead: great gifts are little gods; and preferment to a meane man, is a whet-stone to courage. There is nothing sweeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignify, Franion, advance thy posterity, and evill report can but hurt thy selfe. Know this where Eagles bu id, Faulcons may prey; where Lyons hanif, Fores may steale. Kings are knowne to command, servants are blameles to consent: feare not thou then to list at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Yea, but Franion, conscience is a worme that ever biteh, but never ceaseth. That which is rubbed with the stony Galaxies, will never bee hot. Flesh dipped in the Sea Aegum, will never bee sweet. The Herbe Trigion, being once bit with an Aphis, never groweth: and conscience once stayned with innocent bloud, is alwaies tied to a guilty remorse. Preferre thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: so being poore, thou shalt have rich peace, or else rich, thou shalt enjoy disquiet.

Franion having muttered out these or such like words, seeing either he must die with a cleare mind, or live with a spotted conscience: hee was so cumbered with diuers cogitations, that he could take no rest, vntill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but fearing that the King should either suspect or haire of such matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunity would permit him to reveale it. Lingering thus in doubtfull feare, in an Evening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to speake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were commanded out of the Chamber. Franion made manifest the whole conspiracy which Pandosto had devised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a traitor for bewraying his Masters counsell, but to thinke that hee did it for conscience: hoping that although his Master inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reports, or slanderous speeche,

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speches, had imagined such causesse mischiefe, yet when time shold pacifie his anger, and try those talebearer's but flattering parasites, then he would count him as a faithfull Seruant, that with such care had kept his maisters credit. Egistus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his Tale, but a quaking feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some treason wrought, and that Franion did but shaddow his craft with these false colours: wherefore he began to ware in choller, and sayd, that he doubted not Pandolfo, sith he was his friend, and there had never as yet been any breach of amitie: he had not sought to inuade his Lands, to conspire with his enemies, to dissuade his Subjects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knew not therefore any cause, that shold moue Pandolfo to seeke his death, but suspected it to bee a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at oddes. Franion staying him in the middle of his talke, told him, That to dally with Princes was, with the Swannes to sing against their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any such mischiefe, it might haue been better brought to passe, then by reuealing the conspiracy: therrefore his Majesty did ill, to misconstrue of his good meaning, sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a Traytor: and to confirme his promises. If it pleased his Majesty to sye into Sycilia, for the safeguard of his life: hee would gae with him: and if then hee found not such a practise to bee pretended, let his imagined treachery be repayed with most monstrous torment. Egistus hearing the solemn protestations of Franion, begaine to consider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither Faith nor Law is to be respected: doubting that Pandolfo thought by his death to destroy his Men, and with speedie claue to inuade Sycilia. These and such doubts throughtly weighed, hee gaue great thankes to Franion, promising, if hee might with life returne to Syracusa, that hee would create him a Duke in Sycilia: craving his counsell how he might escape out of the Countrey. Franion, who having some small skill in navigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and Hauens, and knew every danger in the Sea, joyning in counsell with the Maister of Egistus Shipp, rigged all their ships,

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and setting them afloat, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readinesse, when time and wind shoulo serue. Fortune, altho^{gh} blind, yet by chance, fauouring this just cause, sent them within six dayes a good gale of wind: which Tranion seeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspition, the night before they shoulo sayle, he went to him and promised, that the next day he would put the devise in practise; for he had got such a foyble poysone, as the very smell thereof would procure sudden death. Pandosto was joyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his svit had but ill successe: for Egistus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his feet, taking bag and baggage, by the helpe of Tranion conveyed himselfe, and his men out at the Posterne gate of the Citty, so secretly, and speedily, that without any suspition they got to the Sea Shore: where, with many a bitter curse, taking thair leaue of Bohemia, they went aboord, weighing their Anchors, and hoisting saile, they passed as fast as wind & Sea would permit towards Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man that he had safely passed such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, Pandosto and his Citizens were in an vproze: for seeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, and the King thought that without question his suspition was true, seeing the Cup-bearer had bewrayed the sum of his secret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Tranion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the seruent affection she bare him, was the onely meane of his secret departure, insomuch, that incensed with rage, he commaunded that his wife shoulo be carried straight to prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guards unwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous Princesse, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very sorrowfully to fulfill their charge: comaming to the Queenes Lodging, they found her playing with her young Sonne Garintei unto whom with teares doing their message, Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cleare conscience a sure advocate to plead in her cause, went to the Prison most willingly: where with sighes and
feares

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feares she past away the time, till she might come to her tryall.

But Pandosto, whose reason was suppressed with rage, and whose unbridled folly was incensed with fury, seeing Franion had bewrayed his secrets, and that Egistus might well be railed on, but not revenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. He therefore caused a generall proclamation to be made throught all his Realme, that the Queene and Egistus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous adultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon the traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, & Bellaria was most justly imprisoned. This proclamation being once blazed throught the country, although the vertuous disposition of the Queene did halfe discredit the contents, yet so suddaine and speedy message of Egistus, & the secret departure of Franion induced them (the circumstances throughtly considered) to think that both the Proclamation was true, and the King greatly enued: yet they pitied her case, as sorrowfull that so good a Lady should be crossed with such aduerse Fortune. But the King, whose restlesse rage would admit no pity, though that althoough he might suffiently reuise his wifes falsehood with the bitter plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde should neuer be glutted with revenge, till he might haue a fit time and opportunity to repay the treachery of Egistus, with a fatall injury. But a curst Cow hath often-times short hornes, and a willing mind but a weake arme. Soz Pandosto, although he felt that revenge was a spurre to warre, and that envy alwayes proffereth Steele, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great puissance and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings of his alliance to ayd him, if need should serue: soz he married the Empereours daughter of Ruisia. These and the like considerations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that he was content rather to put up a manifest injury with peace, then hunt after revenge, dishonour and losse: determining, since Egistus had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unreasonable pricke.

Remayning thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing still in Prison, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was never touched with

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such affection, nay that Egistus had ever offered her such discou-
tesie, would gladly haue come to her answer, that hoth she might
haue knowne her just accusers, and cleared her selfe of that guilt-
leste crime.

But Pandosto was so enflamed with rage, and infected with
Jelousie, as he would not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit any
just excuse: so that shee was sayne to make a vertue of her need,
and with patience to heare these heavy injuries. As thus shee
lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe)
shee found her selfe quicke with child: which as soone as shee felte
it in her body, shee burst forth into bitter teares, exlayming
against Fortune in these termes.

A Las, Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, because fortunate! Better thou hadst been borne a Beggar then a Prince, so shouldest thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now shee spoyleth her selfe with thy plenty. Ah happie life, where poore thoughts, and meane desires liue in secure content, not fearing Fortune, because too low. For Fortune, thou seest now, Bellaria, that care is a companion to Honor, not to pouerty: that high Cedars are crushed with tempests, when low Shrubs are not touched with the Wind: precious Diamonds are cut with the file, when despised Pebble lyes safe in the sand: Deiphos is sought to by Princes, not Beggars: and Fortunes Altars smoke with Kings presents, not with poore mens gifts. Happy are such, Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may wish they were not sorry they haue bene. Thou art a Princesse, Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by descent, assigned to the other by despight: accused without cause, and therefore oughtest to die without care: for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse mind yeeldeth not to sorrow. Ah, but infamy galleth unto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with Times Feathers, and Envy often-times soundeth Fames Trumpet: the suspected adultery shall lye in the Ayre, and thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the Earth: one Moale stayneth a whole Face; and what is once spotted with Infamy, can hardly be worne out with Time. Dye then, Bellaria, Bellaria dye, for if the gods should say, thou art guilt-
leste,

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lesse, yet Eny would heare the gods, but never believe the gods. Ah, hapless wretch, cease these Termes : Desperate thoughts are fit for them that have shame, not for such as hope for credit. Pandosto hath backned thy fame, but shall never discredit thy vertues. Suspition may enter a false Action, but proove shall never put in his Plea. Care not then for Eny sith Report hath a blister on her Tongue : and let sorrow bite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultlesse. But alas, poore Soule, how canst thou but sorrow : Thou art with Child, and by him, that instead of kind pity, pincheth thee in cold Wilson. And with that, such gasping sighes stopping her breath that she could not utter any more words, but wringing her hands, and gushing forth streames of teares, she paased away the time with bitter complaints.

The Taylor pittyng those her heauy passions, thinking that if the King knew she were with Child, he would somewhat appease his fury, and release her from prison, went in all hast, & certified Pandosto what the effect of Bellaria's complaint was : who no sooner heard the Taylor say she was with Child, but as one possessed with a phrenie, he rose vp in a rage, swearing that she, and the bastard brat she was withall, should die, if the gods themselves said no : thinking surely by computation of time, that Egillus, & not he, was Father to the Child. This suspitious thought galled afresh his halse-healed Soore, in so much as hee could take no rest, vntill he might mitigate his choler with a just reuenge, which happened presently after. Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire and beautifull Daughter, which no sooner Pandosto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the Kings cruell sentence, sought by perswasions to divert him from his bloody determination : saying before his face, the innocency of the Child, and vertuous disposition of his wife how she had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that without due proove he could not, nor ought not to impeach her of that crime : and if shee had faulted, yet it were more honorabile to pardon with mercy, then to punish with extremity, and more kingly, to be commended of pitty, then to discredit her. And

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as for the Child, if he would punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strike against nature and justice ; and that unnaturall actions doe more offend the gods, then men : how easiesse cruelty, nor innocent blood never escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, b. t he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adultresse, the child was a bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous Brat shoulde call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to spare the child's life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this deuice, that seeing (as hee thought) it came by Fortune, so hee would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therfore he caused a little cock-boate to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the meccies of the seas and the destinies. From this his Peeres in nowise could perswade him, b. t that he sent presently two of his Guard to fetch the Child : who being come to the Prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Masters message. Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorous resolution of her mercilesse husband, but shee fell downe in a swound, so that all thought shee had been dead : yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and screeched out in this wise.

A Las, sweet unfortunate Babe, scarce borne before emuid
A by fortunate, would the day of thy birth had been y ferme
of my life : then shouldest thou haue made an end to care, and
preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue
such hatefull reuenge, thy daves are too short for so sharpe a
doome : but thy untimely death must pay thy Mother's debts,
and her guiltiesse crime must bee thy gashly curse. And shalt
thou, sweet Babe, be committed to Fortune, when thou art al-
ready spighted by Fortune : Shall the Seas be thy ha:bour, and
the hard boat thy cradle : Shall thy tender mouth, in stead of
sweet kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes : Shall thou haue
the whistling windes for thy Lullaby, and the salt sea fome in
stead of sweet milke : Alas, what destinies would assigne such
hard hap : What father would be so cruell : Or what gods will
not reuenge such rigour : Let me kisse thy lips (sweet Infant)
and wet thy tender Cheskes with my teares, & put this Chaine
about

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about thy little necke : that if Fortune save thee, it may helpe to succour thee. Thus , since thou must goe to surge in the gastfull Seas , with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thee farewell , and I pray the gods thou maist fare well. Such and so great was her griefe that her vitall Spirits being supprest with sorrow , shee fell againe downe in a trance , hauing her sences so spotted with care , that after she was revived , yet she lost her memorie , and lay for a great time without moving , as one in a trance. The Guard left her in this perplexity , and carried the Child to the King : who quite deuoyd of pity , commanded that without delay it should be put into the Boat , hauing neither Saile nor Rudder to guide it , and so to be carried into the midst of the Sea , and there left to the wind and the waues , as the Destinies please to appoint. The very Ship-men , seeing the sweet countenance of the yong Babe , began to accuse the King of rigour , and to pity the Childs hard Fortune : but feare constrained them to that which their nature did abhorre : so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boat , and with a few greene boughes made a homely Cabin to shroud it as well as they could from wind and weather. Having thus trimmed a Boat , they tyed it to a ship , & so haled it into the maine Sea , and then cut in sunder the Cord : which they had no sooner done , but there arose a mighty Tempest , which tossed the little Boat so vehemently in the waues , that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without sinking : yea the storne grew so great , that with great labour and perill they got to the shore. But leaving the Child to her Fortunes , we will returne to Pandosto : who not yet glutted with sufficient revenge , devised which way he shold best increase his wifes calamity. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellors , hee called her (for the more reproach) in open Court , where it was objected against her , that she had committed adultery with Egistus , and conspired with Franiou to poyson Pandosto her Husband ; but their pretence being partly spyyed , she counselled them to slie away by night , for their better safety. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the Barre , and feeling in her selfe a cleere conscience to withstand her falle accusers) seeing no lesse then death could pacifie her Husbands wrath , wared bold , and desired that she might haue Law and Justice :

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(for mercy she neither craned nor hoped) and that those perjured wretches, which had falsely accused her to the King, might be brought before her face to give in evidence. Pandolfo (whose rage and jealousie was such, as no reason nor equity could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credit, as their words were sufficient witness, and that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion confirmed that which they had confessed; and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her countenance should stand for no coyne: for as the bastard which shee bare was scrued, so shee should with some cruell death bee requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed, with this rough reply, told her Husband Pandolfo, that hee spake vpon choller, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer beene such, as no spot of suspition could euer staine it. And if shee had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lustyng affection: therefore if shee were condemned without any further proove it was rigour and not Law. The Noble-men which satte in Judgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that her accusers might be openly examined, and sworne: if then the evidence were such as the Jury might finde her guilty (for seeing she was a Prince, she ought to be tried by the Peeres) then let her have such punishment as the extreamity of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case hee might, and would dispence with the Law. And that the Jury being once pannelled, they should take his word for sufficient evidence, otherwise hee would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noblemen seeing the King in choller, were all whist, but Bellaria, whose life hung in the ballance, fearing more perp. full infamy, then momentany deasch, told the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Jury yeeld their verdict, & there vpon she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King, that for the loue he bare to his yong Sonne Garister, whom she brought into the world that he would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Majestye to send sixe of his Noble-men whom

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he best trussed to the Isle of Delphos, thers to inquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adultery with Egistus, or conspired to poysen him with Franion : and if the god Apollo, who by his divine essence knowes all secrets, gaue answer that she was guilty, she was content to suffer any torment, were it never so terrible. The request was so reasonable that Pandosto could not for shame deny it, unlesse he would bee counted of all his Subjects more wilfull then wise. Hee therefore agreed, that with as good speed as might bee, there shold be certaine Ambassadors dispatcht to the Isle of Delphos: and in the meane season he commanded that his wife shold bee kept in close Prison. Bellaria having obtained this grant, was now more carefull of her little Babe that floated on the Seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap : for of that shewd doubted ; but of her selfe shewd assured : knowing that if Apollo shold give sentence according to the thoughts of her heart, yet the sentence shold goe on her side, such was the cleerenesse of her mind in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicioous head still remained in one song) chose out six of his Nobility, whom hee knew were scarce indifferent men in the Queens behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their journey, sent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings commaund, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the Island, dispatched their afaires with as much speed as might bee, and embarked themselves to the voyage, which, (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soone ended. For within three weeks they arrived at Delphos : where they were no sooner set on Land, but with great devotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice unto the god, and gifts to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craved an answer of their demaund. They had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice sayd : Bohemians what yee finde behinde the Altar, take, and depart. They forthwith obeyed the Oracle, found a scrowle of Parchment, wherin were written these words in Letters of Gold.

The Oracle.

Suspition is no preufe : Jealousie is an vnequall Judge : Bellaria is chaste : Egistus blamelesse : Franion a true Subject :

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Pandosto treacherous, his Babe innocent, and the King shall die
wirhout an heire, if that which is lost be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this Scrowle, the Priest of the god commanded them, that they should not presume to read it, before they came to the presence of Pandosto, vntesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lordes carefully obeying his command, taking their leare of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple and went to their Ships: and as soone as Wind would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arriued, and with great Triumph issing out of their Ships, went to the Kings Palace, whm they found in his Chamber accompanied with other Noble-men. Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merry countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes? They told his Majesty, that they had receiued answers of the god written in a Scrowle: but with this charge, that they should not reade the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they delivered him the Parchment. But his Noble-men intreated him, that sith therein were contained either the safety of his Wifes life and honestie, or her death, or perpetuall infamy; that hee would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the Judgement Hall, where the Queene, brought in as a prisoner, shold heare the contents: If shee were found guilty by the Oracle of the god, then all shold haue cause to thinke his rigour p̄sceeded of due deserf: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then shee shold be cleared before all, sith shee had beene accused openly. This pleased the King, so that he appoynted the day, and assembled all the Lordes and Commons, and caused the Queene to be brought in before the Judgement Seat, commanding that the Judgement shold bee read: wherein shee was accused of Adultery with Egilius, and of conspiracy with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this chairefull answer.

If the diuine powers bee priuie to humane Actions, (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blushing, and my vnsported life shall stayne spitefull discredit. For al- though

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thorough lying report hath sought to impeach mine honour, and suspition hath intended to soyle credit with infamie : yet where vertue keppeth the fort, report and suspition may assaile, but never lache. Now I haue led my life before Egistus comming, I appeale (Pandosto) to the gods and to thy conscience. What hath passed betweene him and me, the gods onely know, and I hope will presently reveale. That I loued Egistus, I cannot deny, that I honoured him, I shame not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertue ; to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say, Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot. For Franion, I can neither accuse him nor excuse him: I was not priry to his departure : And that this is true which I haue heere rehearsed, I referre my selfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner sayd, but the King commanded that one of the Dukes shold read the contents of the Scrowle, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shoute, rejoicing and clapping their hands that the Queene was cleare of that false accusation. But the King, whose conscience was a witnessse against him of his wittlesse fury, and false suspected Zealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that hee intreated his Nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgive and forget these injuries, promising not only to shew himselfe a loyall and loving Husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus and Franion: revealing then before them all the cause of their secret flight, and how treacherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the good minde of his Cup-bearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whyle matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was sodaynely dead : Which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged before with extreme joy, and now suppressed with heavy sorrow, her vital spirits were stopped, that she fell downe presently dead, and could never be reviued. This sudden sight so appalled the Kings sensces, that he sunke from his Seat in a swound, so as he was faine to be careied by his Nobles to his Palace, where he lay by the space of thre dais without speech.

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His Commons were as men in despaire, so diversly distressed, there was nothing but mourning and lamentation to bee heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soveraigne in great hazard: this tragical discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shado:ves, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauy hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speech: who, as in fury, brayed these bitter speeches.

O miserable Pandosto! what surer witnes then conscience: what thoughts more lowe then suspition: what plague more bad then Jealousie: Unnaturall actions offend the gods, more then men: and causlesse cruelty never scapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloody fact, as repent I may, but recall I cannot. Ah Jealousie, a hell to the mind, and a horrour to the conscience, supressing reason, and melting rage: a worse passion then frenzy, a greater plague then madnesse. Are the gods just: then let them reuenge such brutish cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my loving wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspition: my trus-ty friend I haue sought to betray: and yet the gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vnjust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why shold Garinter, silly Child abide the paine? Well sith the gods meane to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous folly. And with that hee reached at a Rapiere to haue murthered himselfe: but his Peeres being present, stayed him from such a bloody act: persuading him to thinke, that the Commonwealth consisted on his safety, and that those sheepe could not but perish that wanted a Shepheard: wishing that if hee would not live for himselfe, yet hee shold haue a care of his Subjects, and to put such fancies out of his mind, sith in sores past helpe, salues doe not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a corrosiu. With these and such like persuasions, the king was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that so soone as he could goe abroad, he caused his wife to be imbalmied,

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and wrapt in Lead, with her young Sonne Garinter: creating a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein hee intombed them both, making such solemnie obsequies at her Funerall, as all bohemi might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his sore-pasted folly: causing this Epitaph to bee engrauen on her Tombe, in Letters of Gold.

The Epitaph.

Here lyes intombde Bellaria faire,
 & alſly accus'd to be unchaste:
Clear'd by Apollo's ſacred doome.
 Yet ſaine by Iealousie at laſt.

What-ere thou be that paſſeſt by,
 Curſe him that cauſ'd this Queene to aby.

This Epitaph being engrauen, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there, with watry plaints, bewayle his misfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow, and no other harmonie but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragical diſcourse of the young Infant.

VVho being tolled with wind and waues, floated two whole dayes without ſuccour, ready at euery paffe to bee drowned in th ſea: till at the laſt the tempeſt ceaſed and the little Boat was driven with the tide into the Coast of Cycilia: where ſticking upon the ſands, it reſted. Fortune minding to bee wanton, (willing to ſhew that as ſhee hath wrincles on her braues, ſo ſhee hath dimples in her cheekeſ) thought after ſo many ſowze lookeſ, to ſend a ſayned ſmile; and after a puffing ſtoyme, to bring a pretty calme, ſhee began thus to dally. It forturned a poore mercenary ſhepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his living by cther mens flockes, miſſed one of his ſheepe, and thinking it had ſtrayed into the court that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find that which hee could not ſee, fearing either that the wolves or Eagles had vndone him, (for he

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he was so poore, as a Sheepe was halfe his substance) wandred downe towards the Sea-cliffes, to see if perchance the Sheepe was browing on the Sea-lyny, whereon they doe greatly feed. But not finding her there, as hee was ready to returne to his Flocke, he heard a Child cry : but knowing there was no house neere, he thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating of his Sheepe. Therefore looking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the Sea, he espied a little Boat, from whence (as he attentively listned) he might heare a cry to come. Stand-
ing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shore, and wa-
ding to the Boat, as he looked in, he saw a little Babe lying all
alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of
Scarlet, richly embrothered with Gold, and having a Chaine
about her necke. The Shepheard, who before had never seene
so faire a Babe, nor so rich Jewels, thought assuredly that it was
some little god, and began with great devotion to knocke on his
breast. The Babe, who wisthed with the Head to seeke for the
Pap, began againe to cry afresh : whereby the poore man knew
that it was a Child, which by some sinister meanes was driven
thither by distresse of weather : maruellung how such a silly
Infant, which by the mantle & the chaine could not but be borne
of Noble parentage, should bee so hardly crossed with deadly
mishap. The poore Shepheard perplexed thus with divers
thoughts, tooke pitty of the Child, and determined with himselfe
to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, accor-
ding to the worthinesse of its birth : for his ability could not
afford to solster it, though his minde was willing to further it.
Taking therefore the Child in his armes, he folded the Mantle
together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at
his foot a very faire and rich purse, wherein he found a great sum
of Gold : which sight so ravished the Shepheards spirits, as hee
was greatly rauished with joy, & daunted with feare : joyfull to
see such a sum in his power; fearefull if it should be knowne, that
it might breed his further danger. Necessity wist him at the
least to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the child :
the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull
vibery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull
Dilemma, vntill at last the couetousnesse of the coyne overcame
him :

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him: for what will not the greedy desire of gold cause a man to doe? So that he was resolued in himselfe to foster the childe, and with the summe to releife his want. Resting thus resolute in this poynt, he left seeking his sheepe, and as couerly, and secretly as hee could, went a by-way to his House, least any of his neighbours shold perceive his carriage. As soone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the childe began to cry, which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be somewhat jealous: yet maruellung that her husband would be so wanton abroad, sith hee was so quiet at home. But as women are naturally given to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard, began to crow against her good man, and taking vp a cudgell (for the most master went breechesse) sware solemnly, that shee would make Clubs trumpe, if he brought any bastarde brat within her doores. The good man seeing his wife in her Majestie, with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow, for feare of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such matter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for ever. And with that he told her the whole matter: how hee had found the childe in a little Boat, without any succour, wrapp'd in that costly Mantle, and having that rich chaine about her necke: but at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, shee began to simper something sweetly. And taking her husband about his necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying that she hoped, God had seene their want, and now meant to relieue their povertry, and seeing they could get no Children, had sent them this little babe to be their Heire. Take heed in any case (sayth the shepheard) that you be secret, and blab it not out when you meeete with your Collips. For if you doe, we are not like not onely to lose the Gold and Jewels, but our other goods and liues. Tush (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before thee doore: Feare not, I have other things to talke of, then this, but I pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Jewels, least by any mishap it be espied. After that they had set all things in order, the Shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to sing Lullabie at home with her young babe, wrapp'd it in a homely blanket, instead of a rich manile,

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nourishing it so cleanly and carefully, as it began to bee a jollie
Girle : insomuch that they began both of them to bee very fond
of it, and as it waxed in age, so it increased in Beauty. The
Shepheard every night at his comming home, , would sing and
daunce it on his knee, and prattle, that in short time it began to
speake, and call him Dabre, and her Mam. At last, when it
grew to riper yeares, that it was about seauen yeares old, the
Shepheard left keeping of other mens sheepe, and with the mo-
ney hee found in the purse, hee bought him the Lease of a pretty
Farme, and got a small flocke of Sheepe: which when Fawnia
(for so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he set
her to keepe sheepe, and shee with such diligence performed her
charge, as the sheepe prospered maruellously vnder her hand.
Fawnia thought Porrus had beeene her Father, and Mopsa her
mother (for so was the Shepheard & his wife called) and honou-
red and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the Neigh-
boors praised the dutifull obedience of the Child. Porrus grew
in short time to be a man of some wealth and credit. For For-
tune so fauoured him, in having no charge but Fawnia, that
hee began to purchase Land, intending after his death to giue
it to his Daughter: So that diuers rich Farmours Sonnes
came as wooers to his house. For Fawnia was something clean-
ly attired, being of such singular beauty, and excellent wit, that
who so saw her, wold haue thought shee had beeene some heauen-
ly Nymph, and not a mortall Creature. In so much that
when shee came to the age of Sixteene yeares, shee so increased
with exquisite perfection both of Body and minde, as her na-
turall disposition did bewray that shee was borne of some high pa-
rentage. But the people thinking shee was the daughter to the
Shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beauty and wit.
Dea, shee won such fauour and commendations in every mans
eye, as her beauty was not onely prayzed in the Countrey, but
also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her submisse mode-
sty, that although her prayse dayly increased, her minde was
no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became
a country mayd, and the daughter of a poore Shepheard. Every
day she went forth with her sheepe to the field: keeping them with
such care and diligence, as all men thought shee was very paine-
full,

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full, defending her face from the heat of the Sunne with no other baile, but with a Garland made of Boughes and Flowers. Which attire became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to bee the goddesse Flora her selfe for beautie. Fortune who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a lowring countenance: interring as shee had given Fawnia a slender Checke, so shee would give her a harder mate. To bring which to passe, shee layd her trayne on this wise: Egistus had but one onely Sonne called Dorastus about the age of Twenty yeares: a Prince so decked and adorned with the gifts of Nature, so fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father joyed to haue so good a Son but his Commons rejoiced that God had sent them so noble a prince to succeed in the Kingdome. Egistus, placing all his joy in the perfection of his sonne (seeing that he was now marriageable) sent Embassadors to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage betwene him and his daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answer, that the next spring, if it pleased Egistus with his Son to come into Denmarke, hee doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable condicions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, thought conuenient in the meane time to breate it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity, he spake to him in these fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy youth warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine age to provide the best. Opportunities neglected are signes of folly: Actions measured by time, are seldom bitten with repentance. Thou art young, and I old: Age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceive.

I therefore will counsell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a childe. Thou seest, my white haires are blossomes for the Grave: and thy fresh colours, fruit for time and Fortune: so that it behoueth mee, to thinke how to dye: and for thee, to care how to live. My Crowne I must leau by death, and thou enjoy my Kingdome by succession. Therein, I hope, thy Vertue and Prowesse shall bee such, as though my Subjects want my person, yet shall see in thee my perfection. That

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nothing either may faile to satisfie thy mind, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thee well married before I die, and thou become old.

Doraltus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the Field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reverend answer.

Sir, there is no greater Bond then duty, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despight in age. The command of the Father ought to be a constraint to the Child: so Parents wills are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. Nay it please your grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: rather then by deniall I should bee appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue, though it bee the onely thing I hate.

Egillus hearing his Sonne to slie farre from the marke, began to be somewhat chollerike, and therefore made him this answeare.

Vhat, Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cynicall passion of proud desires, or peevish frowardnes: What, dost thou thinke thy selfe to good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thee, Dorastus, there is nothing wicer then youth: nor swifter decreasing while it is increasing. Time past with folly, may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marrie in age, thy Wives fresh coulours will byced in thee dead thoughts and suspition, and thy white hayres her loathsome sano sorrow. For Venus affectations are not fed with kingdemes, or Treasures, but with youthfull concits, and sweet armoures. Vulcan was allotted to shake the Tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Meeld (Doraltus) to thy Fathers perswasong, whch may prevent thy perills. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire by nature, loyal by Birth, by vertues famous, Learned by education, and rich by Possessions: so that it is hard to judge whether her Countey or Fortune, her Beauty or Virtue bee of greater force: I meane (Doraltus) Euphanie, Daughter and Heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egillus

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Egistus pausing here a while, looking when his Sonne should make him answer ; and seeing that he stood still, as one in a trance he tooke him vp thus sharply.

VV^Ell (Dorastus) take heed, the Tree Alypa wasteth not with fire but withereth with dewe : that which loue nourisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania, thou breedest my content ; and in louing her, thou shalt haue my loue : otherwise : and with that hee flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his Father : and halfe angry with himselfe, that hee could not yeeld to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with Times Feathers, and how shee can minister strange causes, to breedre strange effects.

It hapned not long after this, that there was a meeeting of all the Farmers daughters in Sycilia, whether Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the Feast : who having attired her selfe in her best garments, went amongst the rest of her companions to a merry meeting : there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards vse. As the Evening grew on, and their spozt ceased, each taking their leave of other : Fawnia desirous one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to see if they were well fowlded. And as they returned , it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had beene hawking, and killed stoez of game) incountred by the way these two maides ; fearing that with Acteon he had seene Diana : for hee thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him that the maid with the garland on her head, was Fawnia, that faire Shepheardesse , whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus desirous to see if nature had adorned her mind w th any inward qualities, as she had decked her body with outward shape, began to question with her whose daughter she was, of what age , and how shee had beene trayned vp : Who answered him with such modest reverence and sharpnesse of wit , that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeit

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counterfeit to darken her inward qualities : wondering how so courtly behaviour could be found in so simple a Cottage ; and cursing Fortune, that had shaddowed wit and beauty with such hard Fortune. As thus he held her a long time with chat, beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to loose the vantage, but stranke him so deepeley with an inuenomed shaft, as he wholly lost his liberty, and became a Slave to Loue, which before contented loue, glad now to gaze vpon a poore Shephearde, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fixed his fancie, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affection altered ; cursing Loue, that had wrought such a change, and blaineing the basenesse of his minde, that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toyes that might be thrust out at pleasure : to auoyd the Syren that enchanted him, he spurs his Horse, and bid his faire Shephearde farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his Face so well featured, and each limb so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till shee found her selfe faulfe : and perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shooes. She therefore seeking to quench that fire which never was put out, went home, and faining her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed : where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, she could take no rest : for if she had waked, shee began to call to mind his beautie : and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these unacquainted passions, she passed the night as she could in short numbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweete fauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her witt and beauty, as hee could take no rest. He felt fancie to give the assault, and his wounded mind ready to yeeld as vanquished : yet hee began with divers considerations to supprese his franticke affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shephearde, one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince, much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a griefe

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griefe it would be to his Father : blaming fortune, and accusing his owne folly, that shoud be so sond, as but once to cast a glance at such a Country slut. And as thus he was raging against himselfe, Loue (fearing if shee dalliyed long, to lose her Champion) stept more nigh, and gaue him such a fresh wound , as it pierce him at the heart, that he was faine to yeeld maugre his face, and to forswake the company , and get him to his Chamber , where being solemnly set, he burst into these passionate termes.

Ah Dorastus, art thou alone? No , not alone, while thou art tyred with these vnacquainted passions. Yeeld to fancy thou canst not by thy Fathers counsell : but in a frenzie thou art, by just destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldest loue : and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. O divine Loue , feare of men , because honoured of gods : not to be suppressed by wisedome , because not to be comprehended by reason: without law, and therefore aboue law.

How then Dorastus ? Why dost thou blaze flat with praises which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses ? Yet why shold they curse loue, which are in loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy Fortune , thy choyce , thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without shame , nor thy affections without discredit. Ah, Fawnia, sweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shamest not thou, Dorastus, to name one unsit for thy birth, thy Dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die, Dorastus, Dorastus, die. Better haddest thou perish with high desires, than liue in base thoughts. Yea, but beauty must be obeyed, because it is beautie: yet framed of the gods to feed the eye, not to fester the heart.

Ah, but he that striueth against loue , shooteth with them of Scyrum against the Wind , and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey , because I must obey. Fawnia yea Fawnia shall be my Fortune , in spight of fortune. The gods aboue disdaine not to loue Women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne ; Jupiter , Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one something inferiour to these in birth, but farre superior to them in beauty : borne to be a Shepheardesse, but worthy to be a Goddesse.

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Ah, Dorastus, wilt thou forget thy selfe, as to suffer affection
to supprese wisdom, and loue violate thine honour? How
solwe will thy choice be to thy Father, sorrowfull to thy Hub-
jects, to thy friends a griefe, most gladsome to thy soes? Sub-
due then thy affection, and cease to loue her whom thou coul-
dest not loue, unlesse blinded with too much loue. Tush, I
talke to the wind, and in seeking to prevent the causes, I fur-
ther the effects, I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue
Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Do-
rastus, thou canst not repent: and with that, his Page came in-
to the chamber: whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping
that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought.
As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diversly perplexed.
For the next morning getting vp very early, shee went to her
Sheepe, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new con-
cieued amours, beginning very busily to drue them to the field,
and then to shifte the solds. At last, wearied with toyle, shee late
her downe, (where poore soule) she was more tyred with fond
affection. For loue began to assault her, insomuch that as she
late vpon the side of a Hill, shee began to accuse her owne folly
in these termes.

I H^t fortunate Fawnia, And therefore infortunate, because
I Fawnia, thy Shepheard Hooke sheweth thy poore estate, thy
proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the
other thy pride. No bastard Hawke must soare so high as the
Hobby, no Fowle gaze against the Sun, but the Eagle: Actions
wrought against Nature, reape despight: and thoughts aboue
Fortune, disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a Shepheard, daughter to poore Porrus: if
thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou climb,
thou art like to fall. The Hearbe Amia growing higher then six
Inches, becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelve
Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe mea-
sure, are cut short by time or Fortune. Supprese then, Fawnia
those thoughts which thou maiest shame to expresse. But ah,
Fawnia, Loue is a Lord, who will command by power, and con-
straine by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I loue : the worse is thy hap, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flyes ? Will Cedars stoope at Brambles ? Or mighty Princes looke at such homely Trulls ? No, no, thinke this Dorastus, disdaine is greater than thy desire. He is a Prince, respecting his honour: Thou a Beggar's brat forgetting thy calling. Cease then not onely to say, but to thinke so lone Dorastus : and dissemble thy loue, Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, then to live with shame. Yet in despight of Loue, I will sigh, to see if I can sigh out Loue. Fawnia, somewhat appealing her grieves with these pithy persuasions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her sheepe, and to keepe them from straying into the Corne, suppressing her affection with the due consideration of her base estate, and with impossibilities of her loue, thinking it were frenzy (not fancy) to couet that which the very desires deny her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions: for loue so fiercely assailed him, that neither company, nor Musicke could mittigate his Martyredome: but did rather far the more increase his Maladie. Shame would not let him craue counsell in this case: nor feare of his Fathers displeasure, reveale it to any secret friend: but hee was faine to make a Secretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled mind. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull suspence, at last stealing secretly from the Court, without either men or Page, hee went to see if hee could espie Fawnia walking abroad in the field. But, as one having a great deale more skill to retrive the Partridge with the Spaniels, then to hunt after such a strange prey, he sought, but was little the better. Which crose lucke draue him into a great choller, that he began both to accuse Loue and Fortune. But as hee was ready to retyre, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone vnder the side of an Hill, making a Garland of such homely flowers as the fieldes did afford. This sight so revived his spirits, that he drew nigh, with more judgement to make a view of her singuler perfection: which hee found to be such, as in that Countrey attye shee stayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he stood gazing with piercing lookes on her surpassing beauty, Fawnia cast her eye aside

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alde, and espyed Dorastus. Which sudden sight made the poore Girle to blush, and to dye her chrystall cheeks with the Vermilion red : which gaue her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautifull : and with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest courtesies, as hee wondred how a Country mayd could affoord such homely behaviour. Dorastus repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner.

Fayre mayd (quoth he) either your want is great, or a Shepheards life is very sweet, that your delight is in such country labours. I cannot conceiue what pleasures you should take, vnlesse you meane to ymitate the Nymphs, being your selfe so like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to bee commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleasures you haue to counteruayle these drudging labours, Fawnia, with blushing face, made him this answer.

Sir, what richer state then content: or what sweeter life then quiet: Wee Shepheards are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beauty: the lesse care wee haue to feare fame or fortune. Wee count our attye braue enough, if warme enough and our food daynty, if to suffice Nature: our greatest enemy is the Wolfe: our onely care in safe keeping our flocke: in stead of courtly Ditties, wee spend the dayes with country Songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts, delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country prankes, as Ladys to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toile is in shifting our foldes and looking to the Lambes, easie labours: of sittting and telling tales; homely pleasures: our greatest wealth, not to couet: our honour, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Envy lookeþ not so low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cause to be proud.

This witty answer of Fawnia, so inflamed Dorastus, fancy, that he commending himselfe for making so good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and Beauty, that

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that shee were a fitt mate for the most famous Prince in the world. Hee therefore began to lise her more narrowly on this manner.

Fawnia, I see thou art content with country labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures : I commend thy wit, and pity thy want. But wilt thou leue thy fathers Cottage, and serue a Courtly mistresse ?

Sir (quoth she) beggers ought not to striue against fortune, nor to gaze against honor ; least either their fall bee greater, or they become blind. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court : my nature vnsit for their nature : better lieue in meane degree, then in high disdayne.

Well sayd, Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts thou art in loue with some Country shepheard.

No sir (quoth she) shepheards cannot loue, that are so simple and mayds may not loue, that are so young.

Nay therefore (quoth Dorastus) mayds must loue because they are yong : for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is paynted with fresh colours.

I grant (sayd she) age may be paynted with new shadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections : but, what Art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in another. Dorastus seeing Fawnia hold him so hard, thought it was dayne so long to beate about the bush : therefore hee thought to haue giuen her a fresh charge ; but hee was so preuented by certaine of his men, who missing their master, came postling to seeke him, seeing that hee was gone forth all alone : yet before they drew so nigh, that they might heare their talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why, Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou must needs yeeld : for thou knowest I can command and constraine. Tush Sir (quoth shee) but not to loue, for constrained loue is force, not loue : And know this, Sir : mine honesty is such, as I had rather dye, then be a concubine euен unto a King : and my birth is so base, as I am vnsit to be a wife unto a poore farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canst not loue Dorastus. Yes, sayd Fawnia, when Dorastus becomes a shepheard. And with that, the presence of his men broke off their Parle, so that hee went

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with them to the Vallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side : who seeing that she might drew on, shifted her Folds and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away such fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuails ; for the beauty of Dorastus had made such a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be wozne out without cracking so that she wasayne to blame her owne folly in this wise.

A Y Fawnia, why dost thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the wind ? Starres are to be looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand : thoughts are to bee measured by fortunes, not by desires : fals comes not by sitting low, but by climing too high. What then, shall all feare to fall, because some hap to fall ? No, lucke commeth by Lot, and Fortune windeth those Threades which the Destinies spin . Thou art fauoured, Fawnia, of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reject desired fauours. Thou hast deniall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome. A Womans fault, to spurne at that with her foot, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand. Then louest Dorastus, Fawnia ; and yet seemest to lowze. Take heed, if he retire, thou wilt repent : for unlesse he loue, thou canst but dy. Dye then, Fawnia : for Dorastus doth but jest. The Lyon never preyeth on the Mouse : noz doe Fawicons stoop to dead stales. Sit downe then in this sorrow : cease to loue, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will vouchsafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancy Fawnia. Heigh hoe : Ah foole, it were scemlier for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a Lover : and with that shee ceased from these perplexed passions, folding her Sheep, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But such was the unconstant sorrow of Dorastus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of Fawnia, and to see how sond he was, being a Prince : and how froward she was, being a begger : that he began to lose his wonted appetite : to looke pale and wan : in stead of iuyth, hee fed on Melancholly : for Courtly dances, to vse colde dumps. Insomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his father, and all the Court began to maruell at his sudden change, thinking that some lingring sicknesse had brought him into this state. Wherefore hee caused Physicians to come. But Dorastus neyther would

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would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his
Waine : but remayned still so oppressed with these passions as
hee feared in himselfe a further inconuenience. His Honour
wished him to cease from such folly : but loue forced him more
to follow fancy : yea, and in despight of Honour, Loue won the
conquest, so that his hot desires caused him to find new deuices.
For hee presently made himselfe a Shepheards Coate, that hee
might goe vndeclared, and with lesse suspition, to prattle with
Fawnia : and conueyed it secretly into a thicke Groue, hard ad-
joyning to the Palace : whither, finding fit time and opportu-
nity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely Apparell,
got on those Shepheards Robes, and taking a great Hooke in
his hand (which hee also had gotten) hee went very anciently
to find out the Mistresse of his Affection. But as hee went by
the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely Rags, he began
to smile at his owne folly, and to reprove his fondnesse in these
termes.

VV^Ell sayd, Dorastus, thou keepest a good decorum: base
Desires, and homely Attires : thy thought are fit for
none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell such onely as becomes
a Shepheard. A strange change: from a Prince to a Peasant.
What, is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy
cursed Destinies, or thy crooked desires that appoynt thee this
penance? Ah, Dorastus, thou canst but loue, and vniuersall thou
loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond Foole, chuse
Flowres, not Weedes: Diamonds, not Pebbles: Ladies
which may honour thee, not Shepheards, which may disgrace
thee. Venus is paynted in Silkes not, in Rags, and Cupid
treadeth on Tisdayne when he reacheth at Dignity. And yet
Dorastus, shame not at thy Shepheards Cled: the heauenly
gods haue sometime earthly thoughts: Neptun, became a Ram
Jupiter, a Bull; Apollo, a Shepheard: they gods, and yet in
loue: and thou a man appoynted to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee drew nigh to the Place
where Fawnia was keeping her Sheepe: who casting her eye
aside, and seeing such a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly lymned,
and comming with so good a pace, shee began halfe to forget

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Dorastus, and to favour his pretty shepheard, whom shee thought
shee might both loue & obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts
shee perceiued then it was the young Prince Dorastus: wherfore
shee rose vp, and reverently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by
the hand, repayed her courtesie with a sweet kisse, and praying
her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery.

If thou maruell, Fawnia at my strange affire, thou wouldest
more muse at my vnaccustomed thoughts: the one disgra-
ceth but my outward shape: the other disturbeth my inward
lenses: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh, I can-
not mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou
wilt performe no lesse. I haue fulfilled thy request, and now
thou canst not but grant my desire. Thou werst content to loue
Dorastus when he ceast to be a Prince, & became a Shepheard:
and see, I haue made a change, and therefore not to misse of my
choyce.

Truth, quoth Fawnia: But all that weare Cowles, are not
Monkes. Paynted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeu-
xis Grapes were like Grapes, yet shaddowes: rich cloathing
make not Princes: nor homely attyze Beggers: Shepheards
are not called shepheards, because they weare hooks and Wags,
but they are borne poore, and liue to keepe sheepe: so this attyze
hath not made Dorastus a Shepheard, but to seeme like a Shep-
heard.

Vell, Fawnia, answered Dorastus, were I a shepheard
I could not but like thee; being a Prince, I am forced
to loue thee. Take heed, Fawnia, bee not prouid of Beauties
paynting; for it is a flowre that fadeth in the blossome. Those
which disdayne in youth, are despised in age. Beauties sha-
dowes are trickt vp with times colours, which being set to dry
in the Sunne, are stayned with the Sunne, scarce pleasing the
sight: yet they begin not to be worth the sight: not much unlike
the Hearbe Ephymeton, which flourishest in the Morning,
and is withered before the Sun-setting. If my desire were
against

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against loue, thou myghtest justly deny me by reason: but I loue thee, Fawnia, not to misuse thee as a concubine, but to vse thee as my wife; I can promise no more, and meane to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yeelded vp the fort, in these friendly termes.

Ah, Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base Birth causeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach as farre as Kings, aad yet my desires reach as high as Princes. I dare not say, Dorastus, I loue thee, because I am a Shepheardesse: but the gods know, I haue honoured Dorastus (pardon if I say amisse) yea, and loued Dorastus, with such dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I yeeld, not overcome with prayers but with loue: resting Dorastus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no prejudice at all to his honour, nor my credit.

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, swearing that neither distance, time, nor aduerse Fortune should diminish his affection: but that in despight of the desstenies he would remaine faithfull to death. Having thus plighted their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egistus consent would never bee granted to so meane a match Dorastus determined, as soone as time and opportunity would give him leaue, to prouide a great masse of Money, and many rich and costly Jewels, for the easier carriage; and then to transport themselves and their Treasure into Italy, where they should lead a contented life, vntill such time as either hee could be reconciled to his Father, or else by succession come to the Kingdome. This device was greatly praised of Fawnia: for shee feared, if the King his Father should but heare of the contract, that his fury would bee such, as no lesse then death should stand for payment. Shee therefore told him, that delay bred danger: that many mishappes did fall out betweene the

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Coy and Lip: and that to a boyd danger, if were best with as much speede as might bee, to passe out of Sycilia, least fortune might preuent their Patience with some new despight. Dorastus, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great haste, as either time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and so resting vpon this paynt after many embracings and sweet kisses, they departed. Dorastus, having taken his leaue, of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the Greue where he had his rich apparell, and there bicausing himselfe as secretly as might be, hidynge by his Shepheards at fyre, till occasion shoulde serue againe to vse it, hee went to the Palace, shewing by his merry countenance, that either the stafe of his body was amended, or the cause of his minde greatly adressed. Fawnia, poore Soule, was no lesse joyfull, that being a Shepheardesse, fortune had favoured her so, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the Daughter of a poore farnour, to bee Wife to a rich King. So that she thought euery houre a yeere, till by their departure they might preuent daunger: not ceasing still to goe every day to her Sheepe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire she had to see her Loue and Lord, Dorastus: who often-times, when opportunity would serue, repaired thither to feede his fancy with the sweet content of Fawnia's presence. And although hee never went to visite her, but in these Shepheards Hagges, yet his oft repayre made him not onely suspected, but knowne to diuers of their Neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his Daughter at home, lest she went so long to the field, that she brought him home a young Sonne. For they feared that Fawnia being so beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken in a dumpe at these newes, so that thanking his Neighbours for their good will, he hyed him home to his wife: and calling her aside, wringing his hands, and sheding forth teares, hee brake the matter to her in these termes.

I Am afraid, Wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe to sinne, that she will buy Repentance to deere. I haue newes

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nelves, which if they be true, some will wish they had not proved true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Dorastus the Kings Sonne begins to looke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be so, I will not give her a halfe-peny for her honesty at the yeeres end. I tell thee, wife, now a daies beauty is a great stale to trap young men, and faire words and sweet promises are two great Enemies to Maydens honesty: and thou knowest, where poore men intreat, and cannot obtaine, there Princes may command, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes daunce in Nets they may not be seene: yet poore mens faults are spied at a little hole. Well, it is a hard care where kings lusts are lawes, and that they should binde poore men to that which they themselves wilfully breake.

Peace, Husband (quoth his wife) take heed what wee say: Speake no moare then you should, least you heare what you would not. Great streames are to be stopped by sleight, not by force: and Princes to bee perswaded by submission, not by rigour. Doe what you can, but no moare then you may, least in saving Fawnia's Mayden-head, you lose your owne head. Take heed, I say, it is ill jesting with edged fooles, and bad sporting with kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for but looking into the Lyons den.

Tush, wife (quoth he) thou speakest like a Foole: If the king should know that Dorastus had gotten our Daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings fury would be such, as no doubt we should both lose our goods and lives necessarily therefore hath no Law, and I will prevent this mischiefe with a new devise that is come into my head, which shall neither offend the King, nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the chaine & the Jewels that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King; letting him then to understand, how she is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little Boat, wrapped in a rich mantle, wherin was inclosed this Treasure. By this meanes, I hope the King will take Fawnia into his service, and we, whatsoever chancefeth, shall be blamelesse. This devise pleased the good-wife very well, so that they determined as soone as they might know the King at leisure, to make him privy to this case.

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In the meane time , Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires , but applied his matters with such diligence , that he prouided all things fit for their Journey . Treasure and Jewels hee had gotten great store , thinking there was no better friend then money in a strange Countrey . Rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia : and because hee could not bring the matter to passe without the helpe and aduise of some one , he made an ould servant of his calld Capnio , who had serued him from the child-hood , priuie to his affaires : who , seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert him from his settled determination , gaue his consent , and dealt so secretly in the cause , that within shourt space he had gotten a Ship ready for their passage . The Mariners seeing a fit gale of Winde for their purpose , wished Capnio to make no de-layes , lest if they pretermitted this good Weather , they might stay long ere they had such a faire wind . Capnio fearing that his negligence should hinder their Journey , in the night time con-veyed the truncks full of Treasure into the Ship , and by secret meanes let Fawnia vnderstand , that the next Morning they meant to depart . Shee vpon these newes slept very little that night , but got her vp very early , and went to her Wheepe , loo-king euery minute when she should see Dorastus : who tarryed not long , for feare delay might breed daunger ; but came as fast as hee could gallop , and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behind him , and rode to the Haunce where the Ship lay , which was three quarters of a mile distant from that place . He no sooner camie there , but the Mariners were ready with their Cock-Woat to set them aboord : where being couched to-gether in a Cabbin they past away the tyme in recounting their old loues , till their man Capnio could come .

Porrus , who had heard that this morning the King woulde go abroad to take the ayre , called in hauke to his wife , to bring him his Holie-day-Hose , and his best jacket , that he might goo like an honest substantiall man to tell his Tale . His Wife a good cleanly wench , brought him all things fit , and spunged him vp very handsomely , giuing him a Chayne and the Jewels in a little box : which Porrus for the more safety put in his besome . Hauing thus his Trinkets in a readyneue , taking his Hatte in his hand , hee bade his wife kisse him for good lucke , and so

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he went towards the Palace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) prevented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could, with a little Coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom hee knew to bee Fawnias Father going towards the Palace: being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore crost him the way and asked him whither he was going so early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the kings sonne Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for hee had but one daughter, who was a little beautifull, and that his Neighbours told him, the yong Prince had allured her to folly: hee went therefore now to complayne to the king how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way knew the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and sayd, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince, to spoyle any pooze mans Daughter in that sort: hee therefore would doe the best for him he could, because hee knew hee was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you loose your labour in going to the Palace: for the king meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboord of a Ship that lies in the Hauen: I am going before, you see, to prouide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with mee to the Hauen, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the king at your pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnios smooth tales, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly aduice, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaynt on Dorastus; yet concealing secretly his chayne and the Jewels. As soone as they were come to the Sea-side, the Marriners seeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boats: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus, if hee would goe see the shippe: who willing, and fearing the worst, because hee was not well acquaynted with Capnio, made his excuse that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by fayre meanes he could not get him aboord, commaundered the Marriners that by violence they should

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carry him into the ship, who like sturdy knaves hoisted the poore Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to to the Boat lanched from the Land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry out, for hee saw it wold not preuayle : but began to intreat Capnio, and the Mariners to bee good to him, and to pity his estate, hee was but a poore man that liued by his labour : they laughing to see the Shepheard so affrayd, made as much hast as they could to set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship but hee saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her : for shee had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so increased her beauty, that shee resembled rather an Angell, than a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia, were halfe astonished to see the Old Shepheard ; maruelling greatly what wind had brought him thither , till Capnio told them all the whole discourse : how Porrus was going to make his complaunt to the King, if by policy he had not preuented him ; and therefore now sith he was aboard, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry him into Italy.

Dorastus, praised greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of his counsaile : but Fawnia, (who still feared Porrus as her Father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes hee should either incurre danger or displeasure.

The Old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence : that hee should on such a suddaine be carried from his wife, his country and kinsfolke, into a forreigne Land among strangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised folly, hee would give him leaue to goe home : sinearing that hee would keepe all things as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not preuayle, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly : but the Mariners hoisted their maine sailes, waighed Anchors, haled into the deepe : where wee leaue them to the succour of the Wind and Seas, and returne to Egistus,

VV Ho having appoynted this day to Hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his Sonne Dorastus, to goe sport himselfe,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

himselfe, because he saw that of late he began to lowre : but his men made answere , that hee was gone abroad none knew whither, except hee were gone to the Groue to walke all alone , as his custome was every day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpe , sent one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine : soz at the last he returned , but find him he could not , so that the King went himselfe to goe see the spott : where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked soz his Son, but he could not be heard of , which draue the king into a great choller : whereupon most of his Noble-men and other Courtiers posted abroad to seeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia: onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the king suspect that hee was not gone farre.

Two or Thre dayes being passed , and no newes heard of Dorastus , Egistus being fearefull that hee was devoured with some wild Beasts , and vpon that made out a great Troupe of Men to goe seeke him : who coasted through all the Countrey and searched in every dangerous and secret place , vntill at last they met with a Fisher-man , that was sitting in a little couert , hard by the Sea side , mending his Nets , when Dorastus and Fawnia tooke shipping : who being examined if he either knew or heard where the kings sonne was, without any secrecie at all, revealed the whole matter, how hee was sayled two dayes past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauy newes was presently carried to the King, who halfe dead for sorrow, commaunded Porrus Wif to bee sent for : shee being come to the Palace, after due examination, confessed, that her neighbors had oft told her, that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her Daughter : Wherevpon her Husband fearing the worst, about two daies past, (hearing the king should goe on Hunting) rose early in the morning, and went to make his complaint, but since shee neither heard of him, nor saw him, Egistus perceiving the Womans unsayned simplicity, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, conceiving such secret grieze for his Sons wretchedesse folly, that he had so forgotten his Honour and Parentage, by so base a choice to dishonour

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our his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartaine Fener: which was so unfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weak, as the Physicians would grant him no life.

But his Son Dorastus littles regarded either Father, Countrey or Kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia: for Fortune smiling on this young novice, sent him so lucky a gale of Wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay & slept upon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouer-cast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell: yea presently there arose such a fearefull tempest, as the Ship was in danger to bee swallowed vp in every Sea; the maine mast, with the violence of the wind, was throwne over-boord, the Sailes were tornie, the Tackling rended asunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three dayes, all which time, the Marriners every minute looked for death, and the aire was so darkened with clouds, that the Maister could not tell by the compasse in what coast they were. But upon the fourth day about ten of the Clocke, the Winde began to cease, the Sea to ware calme, and the Sky to be cleere, and the marriners descried the coast of Bohemia, shooting off their Ordinance for joy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arrived at some Harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bade her be of good cheere. When they told him that the Port belonged to the chiese City of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus began to bee sad; knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on Land, but that Capnio Counselled him to change his Name and his Countrey, vntill such time as they could get some other Warke to transpoyt them into Italy. Dorastus likeing this deuice, made his case priuy to the Marriners, rewarding them bountifullly for their paynes, and charging them to say, that hee was a Gentleman of Trapolonia, called Meleagrus. The Shipmen willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus, promised to bee as

secret

Dorastus and Fawnia.

secret as they could, or he might wish : and vpon this, they landed in a little Village a mile distant from the City : where, after they had rested a day, thinking to make Prouision for their marriage, the fame of Fawnia's beauty was spred throughout all the City, so that it came to the ears of Pandotto : who then being about the age of Fifty, had notwithstanding young and fresh affections : so that he desired greatly to see Fawnia : and to bring this matter the better to passe , hearing they had but one Man, and how they rested at a very homely house hee caused them to bee apprehended as Spies , and sent Twelue of his Guard to take them , who being come to their Lodging , told them the Kings message. Dorastus no whit dismayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the Stiffe) who being admitted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted his Ma-
jesty.

Pandotto amazed at the singular perfection of Fawnia , stood halfe astonished, viewing her beauty, so that hee almost forgot himselfe what he had to do : at last, with sterne countenance hee demanded their names , and of what countrey they were, and what caused them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a knight, boorne and brought vp in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman , whom I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian boorne in Padua , from whence I haue now brought her. The cause I haue so small a traine with me, is, for that her friends unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to conuey her into Trapolonia , whither I was sayling, and by distresse of Weather : I was driven into these Coasts. Thus haue you heard my name, my Country, and the cause of my voyage. Pandotto starting from his Seat, as one in choller, made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare, this smooth tale hath but small truth; and that thou couerest a soule skin with faire paintings. No doubt, this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more meet for a mighty Prince, then for a simple knight: and thou like a perjured Traytor hath bereft her of her parents to their present griefe, and her ensuing sorrow. Till therefore

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I heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will stay
you both heere in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but kingly valour, was
not able to suffer the reproaches of Pandosto, but that hee made
him this answere.

IT is not meet for a King, without due prooфе, to accuse a
ny man of ill behauour, noz vpon suspition to inferre beliefe;
Strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie, not to be en-
treased with cruelty: lest being forced by want to put vp inju-
ries, the gods revenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus vtter these words, commaunded
that hee should straight be committed to prison, vntill such time
as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, hee
charged that shee should be entertained in the Court, with such
courtesie as belonged to a straunger and her calling: the rest of
the shipmen put in the Dungeon.

Having thus so hardly handled the supposed Trapolonians,
Pandosto, contrary to his aged yeares, began to bee somewhat
tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, insomuch that hee could take
no rest, but cast into his old head a thousand new deincees: at last
he fell into these thoughts.

How art thou desired (Pandosto) with fresh affections, and
vnsift fancies, wishing to possesse with an unwilling minde,
and a hote desire troubled with a cold disdaine? Shall thy minde
yeeld in age, to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto
blab not out that whiche thou maist be ashamed to reueale to thy
selfe. Ah, Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour
(fondfoole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans
Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart
would faine refuse: playing like the bird Ibis in Egypt, which
hateth Serpents, yet feedeth on their Egges.

Tush, hot desires turne oftentimes to cold disdaine: Loue is
brittle, where appetite, not reason beares the sway: Kings
thoughts ought not to climbe so high as the Heauenis, but to
ooke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the Stars
with the young Eagles, then to prep on dead Carcasses with
the

Dorastus and Fawnia.

the vulture : it is more honourable for Pandosto to dye by concealing loue, then to enjoy such vnfit loue. Doth Pandosto then loue : Yea, Whom ? A mayd vnkowne, yea, and perhaps immodest, stragled out of her owne Country : beautifull, but not therefore chaste : comely in body, but perhaps crooked in mind. Tease then, Pandotto, to looke at Fawnia, much lesse to loue her : bee not overtaken with a Womans beauty, whose eies are framed by Art to enamour : whose heart is framed by nature to enchant : whose falle teares know their due time, and whose sweete words pierce deeper then sharpe swords. Here ceast Pandosto from his talke, but not from his loue : for althoough he sought by reason and wisdome to supprese this franticke affection, yet he could take no rest, the beauty of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke, which was hard adjoyning to his House, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered these words.

Fawnia, I commend thy Beauty and wit, and now pisty thy distresse and want : but if thou wil forslake Sir Meleagrus (whose pouerty, though a Knight, is not able to maintaine an estate answerable to thy Beauty) and yeeld thy consent to Pandosto, I will both increase thee with dignities and riches. No, Sir, answered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a Knight that hath won me by loue, and none but hee shall weare mee : this smifter mischance shall not diminish my affection, but rather increase my good will : thinke not, though your Grace hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare will make me yeeld my consent : I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and be pandosto's Concubins.

Pandosto, hearing the assured answer of Fawnia, would notwithstanding prosecute his suite to the vttermost : seeking with faire words and great promises to scale the fort of her chastity : swearing that if shee would grant to his desire, Meleagrus should not onely be set at liberty, but honoured in the Court amonst his Nobles. But these alluring baits could not entice her mind from the loue of her new-befrothed Mate Meleagrus, whiche Pandosto seeing, hee let her alone for that time to consider

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A **U**nfortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire aboue fortune is
to striue aboue gods and fortune. Who gazeth at the Sun,
weakeneth his sight : They which stare at the sky fall oft into
deep pits : hast thou rested content to haue been a Shepheard,
thou needest not to haue feared mischance : better had it been for
thee, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by clyming high, to
haue fallen into misery. But alas, I feare not mine own danger
but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweet Dorastus, thou art a Prince,
but now a prisoner, by too much loue, procuring thine own losse ;
haddest thou not loued Fawnia, thou hadst been fortunate. Shall
I then bee false to him that hath forsaken Kingdomes for my
cause ? No, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honour
might bee preserued. With that, fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased
from her complaints, and went againe to the Palace, enjoying
a liberty without content, and proffered pleasure with small joy.
But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being pin-
ched with a hard restraint, and pained with the burthen of cold &
heavy prons , sorrowed sometimes that his fond affection had
procured him this mishappe , that by the disobedience of his Pa-
rents, he had wrought his owne despight : another while cursing
the gods and Fortune, that they would crosse him with sinister
chaunce, uttering at last his passions, with these words.

A **U**nfortunate wretched, borne to mishap, now thy folly hast
this desert : art thou not worthy for thy base minde, to haue
bad Fortune ? Could the destenies fauour thee, which hast forgot
thine honour and dignity ? Will not the gods plague him with
despight, that payneth his Father with disobedience ? Oh gods if
any fauour or justice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia,
and shrowd her from the Tyrannyes of wretched Pandosto : but
let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome death.Do-
rastus payned with these heavy passions , sorrowed and sighed
but in bayne ; for which he vsed more patience.

But againe to Pandosto , who brypling in the heat of unlaw-
full lust , could take no rest , but still felt his minde disquieted

with

Dorastus and Fawnia.

with his new loue ; so that his nobles and subjects maruelled greatly at his sodaine alteration, not being able to conjecture the cause of this his continued care. Pandosto thinking every houre a peere, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his chamber : whither Fawnia though unwillingly comming, Pandosto entertain'd her very courteously, using these familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shorly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia are you become lesse wilfull , and more wise , to preferre the loue of a King , before the liking of a poore knight : I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a king, than of a Subject.

Fawnia.

¶ Pandosto, the Body is subject to victories , bnt the mindes not to be subdued with Conquest : honesty is to be preferred before Honour , and a Dram of faith weigh downe a Tun of gold , I haue promised Meleagrus my loue , and will performe no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not so vnwise in thy choyce , as to refuse the offer of a King, nor so vngratefull as to despise a good turne : thou art now in that place where I may command, and yet thou seest I intreat : my power is such, that I may compell by force, and yet I sue by prayers. Yield, Fawnia, thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue : Meleagrus shall bee set free, thy Countrey:men discharged , and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto , where lust ruleth , it is a miserable thing to bee a Virgin : but know this, that I will alwaies preferre same before life, and rather choose death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus , and a resolution without feare to hate him, fleeing away from her in a rage, hee sware, that if in shorft time shee would not be won by reason, hee would forget all courtesie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But these threatening wordes no whit dismayed Fawnia : but that shee still both

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despighsed and despised Pandosto. While thus these two Lovers
Krone, the one to winne Lour, the other to live in hate: Egis-
tus heard certaine Newes by Merchants of Bohemia, that
his sonne Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made
him feare greatly, that his Sonne should bee but hardly infre-
ated: yet considering that Bellaria and hee were cleared by the
Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had
unjustly charged them: hee thought best to send with all speede
to Pandosto, that hee should set free his Sonne Dorastus, and
put to death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by
the aduise of counsel, the spediest remedy to release his Sonne,
hee caused presently two of his Ships to be rigged, and thorow-
ly furnished with Provision of men and Vittualls, and sent di-
uers of his Nobles Embassadores into Bohemia: who willing
to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no
delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much speed as might
bee, sayled towards Bohemia; the Winde and Seas fauoured
them greatly, which made them hope of some good hap: soz with-
in Three daies they were I mded: which Pandosto no sooner
heard of their arriuall, but hee in Person went to meet them,
infreating them with such sumptuous and familiar courtesie,
that they might well perceiue how sorry hee was for the former
injuries hee had offered to their King, and how willing (if it
might bee) to make amends. As Pandosto made report to them
how one Meleagrus a knight of Trapolonia, was lately arrived
with a Ladie called Fawnia in his Land, comming very suspic-
iously: accompanied onely with one Seruant, and an old Shephe-
heard: the Embassadores perceived by the halfe, what the
whole tale meant, and began to conjecture that was Dorastus,
who for feare to be knowne, had changed his Name. But dis-
sembling the matter, they shortly arrived at the Court, where
after they had beene very solemnly and sumptuously feasted, the
Noblemen of Sicilia being gathered together, they made report
of their Embassage: where they certified Pandosto, that Mele-
agrus was Sonne and Heire to the King Egistus: and that his
name was Dorastus: and how contrary to the kings mind hee
had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marrie
Her, being but Daughter to that poore Shepheard Porrus.

Welche.

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Wherupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might be murthered and put to death, and that his son Dorastus might bee sent home in safety. Pandosto having attentively and with great maruaile heard their Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, & to shew him how greatly he esteemed his fauour, although Loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despight of loue he determined to execute Egistus will without mercy, and therfore hee presently sent for Dorastus out of prison: who marueling at his unlooked for courtesie, found at his comming to the Kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his Fathers Embassadors: who no sooner saw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him, and Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him by him very louingly in a chayre of state. Dorastus ashamed that his folly was bewrayed, sat a long time as one in a maze, till Pandosto told him the sum of his Fathers Embassage: which he had no sooner heard but he was touched to the quick for the cruell sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia: but neither could his sorrow nor persuasions preuaile: for Pandosto commanded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, should bee brought to his presence: who were no sooner come, but Pandosto having his former loue turned into disdainefull hate, beegan to rage agianst Fawnia in these termes:

Thou disdaynfull basall, thou currish kite, assigned by the Destinies to base fortune, and yet with an aspiring mind gazing after honour: how durst thou presume, being a begger, to match with a Prince: by thy alluring lookes to inchaunt the Sonne of a King, to leave his owne Countrey, to fulfill thy disordinate lusts: O despightfull mind: A proud heart in a begger, is not unlike a great fire in a small cottage, which warmeth not the house, but burneth it: assure thy selfe thou shalt dye: and thou old detting foole, what folly hath beene such, as to suffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other meede, but the like punishment. But Capnio thou whiche hast betrayed the king, and hast consented to the unlawfull lust of thy Lord and Master, I know not how justly I may plague thee: Death is too easie a punishment for thy falsehood,

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and to live, (if not in extreme misery) were not to shew thee equity. I therefore award, that thou shalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou diest, grinde in a Mill like a brute beast. The feare of death brought a sorrowfull silence vpon Fawnia, and Capnio: but Porrus seeing no hope of life, burst forth in these speeches.

Pandosto, and ye noble Embassadours of Sicilia, seeing with-out cause I am condemned to die. I am yet glad I haue opportunity to disburden my conscience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true, wheras I am accused that I haue beene a supporter of Fawnia's pride and shee disdained as a vile beggar; so it is, that I am neither Father unto her, nor she Daughter unto me.

For it so happened, that I being a poore Shephard in Sycilia, living by keeping other mens flocks, one of my sheepe straying downe to the Sea-side, as I went to seeke her, I saw a little Boat druen vpon the shore, wherein I found a Babe of sixe dayes old, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, having about the necke this chaine: I pitting the Child, and desirous of the Treasure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nur-sed it vp, and set it to keepe Sheepe. Heere is the Chaine and Jewels, and this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the Boat; what she is, or of what Parentage, I know not: but this I am assured, that she is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell out his tale, but that he required the time of the yeare, the manner of the Boat, and other circumstances: which when he found agreeing to his count, sodainely he leapt from his seat, and kissed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheekes with his teares, and crying, My daughter Fawnia, ah my sweet Fawnia, I am thy father, Fawnia! this sudden passion of the King draue them all into a maze, especially Fawnia & Dorastus. But when the King had breathed himselfe a while in this new joy, he reheatred before the Embassadours the whole matter, and how he had entreated his Wife Bellaria for Jealousie, and that this was the Child whom he sent to float in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more joyfull that Shee had found such a Father

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Father, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors rejoiced that their young Prince had made such a choice: That those kingdome which through enmity had long time been dissevered, should now through perpetuall amity be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Subjects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was supposed dead, joyfull that there was an heire apparent to the kingdome) made Bonfires and shewes throughout all the City. The Courtiers and knights appoynted Jests and Turneyes, to signifie their willing minds in gratifying the kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these princely sports, Pandosto willing to recompence old Portus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient pauy to receive him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus and Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embassadors, he sailed towards Sicilia, where he was most princely entertained by Egistus: who hearing this Comicall event, rejoiced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall joy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto (calling to mind how he first betrayed his friend Egistus, how his zealousie was the cause of Bellaria's death, that contrary to the Law of nature, he had lusted after his owne daughter) moued with these desperate thoughts, hee fell in a melancholly fit, and to close vp the Comedy with a tragicall stratagem, he slew himselfe: whose death being many daies bewayled of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deare friend Egistus, Dorastus taking leauue of his Father, went with his wife and the

dead Corps into Bohemia: whereafter it was

sumptuously intombed, DORASTVS

ended his dayes in content quiet.

(***)

FINIS.